

INCOME* GUIDELINES FOR
DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY
FOR FREE AND REDUCED
PRICE MEALS

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
School Child Nutrition Programs

INSTRUCTIONS

Rev. 05/15
7CFR Part 245.3(a)

1. Income guidelines to be used by all persons reviewing applications.
2. Distribute to all schools/sites for use by determining officials.

The following income guidelines will be used in Connecticut from **July 1, 2015** to **June 30, 2016** for determining eligibility of participants for free and reduced price meals and milk in the Child Nutrition Programs. These guidelines are taken from the United States Department of Agriculture's annual adjustments to the Income Guidelines. **Note:** Before approving ANY free/reduced price meal/milk applications, the determining official must do the following: 1) Refer to and review the USDA [Eligibility Manual for School Meals](#) manual and check for updates in 2015, 2) Review the 2015-16 application and instruction form, and 3) Review the 2015-16 Parent/Guardian Letter to Households for School Meals/Milk and Snacks.

FREE MEALS/MILK

REDUCED PRICE MEALS

Number in Family	Annual Gross Income	Monthly Gross Income	Twice Per Month Gross Income	Every Two Weeks Gross Income	Weekly Gross Income	Number in Family	Annual Gross Income	Monthly Gross Income	Twice Per Month Gross Income	Every Two Weeks Gross Income	Weekly Gross Income
1	\$15,301	\$1,276	\$638	\$589	\$295	1	\$21,775	\$1,815	\$908	\$838	\$419
2	20,709	1,726	863	797	399	2	29,471	2,456	1,228	1,134	567
3	26,117	2,177	1,089	1,005	503	3	37,167	3,098	1,549	1,430	715
4	31,525	2,628	1,314	1,213	607	4	44,863	3,739	1,870	1,726	863
5	36,933	3,078	1,539	1,421	711	5	52,559	4,380	2,190	2,022	1,011
6	42,341	3,529	1,765	1,629	815	6	60,255	5,022	2,511	2,318	1,159
7	47,749	3,980	1,990	1,837	919	7	67,951	5,663	2,832	2,614	1,307
8	53,157	4,430	2,215	2,045	1,023	8	75,647	6,304	3,152	2,910	1,455
Each Add'l Family Member	+5,408	+451	+226	+208	+104	Each Add'l Family Member	+7,696	+642	+321	+296	+148

If a household has only one source of income, or if all sources of income are the same frequency, **do not** use conversion factors. Compare the income or sum of the incomes to the chart above for the appropriate frequency and household size to make the eligibility determination.

Many households have different sources of income coming into the home at different frequencies, such as weekly or bi-weekly wages and monthly social security benefits. In these situations, all sources of income must be converted to an annual amount using the following calculations:

Multiply by: Weekly x 52 ♦ Every two weeks x 26 ♦ Twice per month x 24 ♦ Monthly x 12

*Income means income before deductions such as income taxes, Social Security taxes, insurance premiums, charitable contributions and bonds. It includes the following: 1) Monetary compensation for services, including wages, salary, commissions or fees; 2) net income from non-farm self-employment; 3) net income from farm self-employment; 4) Social Security; 5) dividends or interest on savings or bonds or income from estates or trusts; 6) net rental income; 7) public assistance or welfare payments; 8) unemployment compensation; 9) government civilian employee or military retirement, or pensions or veterans' payments; 10) private pension or annuities; 11) alimony or child support payments; 12) regular contributions from persons not living in the household; 13) net royalties; and 14) other cash income. Other cash income would include cash amounts received or withdrawn from any source including savings, investments, trust accounts and other resources. "Income" as used here does not include any income or benefits received under any Federal programs, which are excluded from consideration as income by any legislative prohibition, for example, the value of benefits received under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) formerly known as Food Stamps.

In applying guidelines, a school food authority/institution **must** compare the household's size and total household income to the income guidelines to determine eligibility for free or reduced price meals. Children of parents or guardians who become unemployed may be eligible for free or reduced price meals or for free milk during the period of unemployment.